

Fox, Susan

From: Cindy [cnickol@bresnan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:13 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Commissioner of Political Practices
Attachments: AndyNickol.Resume.doc

May 10, 2011

Dear Susan:

Thank you for taking the time to provide me with information regarding the Commissioner of Political Practices, I appreciate your time and effort.

I believe I am well qualified for this position in many regards. First and foremost, I have a long standing interest in Montana politics followed closely by my dedication to ethics. On review of my transcripts from Carroll College, you will see I have course work directly in ethics, complementing my Bachelor of the Arts in Business Administration/Finance. I have worked with candidates and campaigns dating back to 1992 when I wrote software applications for political fundraising reporting for the Montana Democratic Party and Mike McGrath's primary Gubernatorial campaign.

I have significant experience in membership management and accounting, having written the membership management database application used by the Montana Democratic Party from its inception in 1993 until it was replaced in 2005. This 12 year legacy application certainly had its limitations, but I do not believe the Party was in violation of reporting during the use of that application. In addition to this reporting, I managed Sam Nickol's 2004 campaign for the House of Representatives, completing all reporting in a timely fashion.

In my other work, I have experience in statistical analysis, database management and design, web design and database application programming. I am very skilled at using the State of Montana's standard operating systems, network management and office suites. These skills will be a definite asset to the state in working with the reporting requirements mandated to ensure our electoral process is as effective and efficient as possible.

Although you may find minor traffic infractions in a background check, I do not have any legal obstacles that would interfere with my capacity to fulfill the duties of this position.

Sincerely,

Andy Nickol
PO Box 596
Helena, MT 59624-0596
(406) 431-9519
andynickol@bresnan.net

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?

Yes, I am familiar with Section 13-37-108 of the Montana Code Annotated and the restrictions outlined in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, parts a and b, of the laws.

2. What is your legal writing experience?

I do not have experience writing formal legal opinions. I am able to clearly and concisely formulate logical opinions, articulate thoughts and ideas and write intelligently. These skills combined with legal staff affiliated with the office will allow presenting decisions and opinions compliant with the laws of Montana and in accordance with the policies of this office.

3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?

No, I have not ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP.

4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?

In 1992, I wrote a database application used for reporting campaign contributions, both monetary and in-kind for Mike McGrath's campaign. I was responsible for generating the data for reporting for the Montana Democratic Party in 1992-1995 for membership reporting requirements for the state and federal requirements. I continued helping with this reporting through 2003. In 2004, I was the campaign manager for Sam Nickol's legislative campaign.

5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?

I worked for the Montana Democratic Party from 04/1992 to 05/1995 as the database administrator/network manager. I did not have a political role in the office, and worked to serve my employer in my best possible capacity. I do not believe I owe any particular allegiance to the Democratic party or any of its candidates as a result of having been employed by them. I believe all decisions should be made under the advice of counsel in compliance with the laws of the State of Montana and the United States government as appropriate. As an arbiter of the law, it is the incumbents responsibility to read, interpret and apply the law equitably and without regard to individual pleadings. Should an accusation of bias ever arise, I would bring the matter before a review panel for consideration before rendering any final decision.

6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?

I do not believe the current candidate contribution limits are subject to the opinion of the Commissioner of Political Practices, and the matter of setting different limits would be resolved by the Montana State Legislature. I would work to ensure campaigns stay within the limits set by the Legislature.

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?

No, I have not been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist, nor has any member of my family.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

As state in Item 6, I do not see the Commissioner's role as developing regulations, but to enforce the rules that exist in a fair and equitable manner. Again, if further regulations or restrictions were brought to my attention as necessary, I would refer such matters the Montana State Legislature through appropriate channels.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **SELF-EMPLOYED/ENTREPRENEUR, 810 HIALEAH COURT, HELENA, MT 59601**
01/04/ to Present
CEO/CFO/Manager
Business consultation service to clients using MS Access, SPSS, Excel, Word, Publisher and Macromedia Dream Weaver, Adobe Publisher, Adobe Photoshop. Database consulting and software application development.
Founded a consulting business to engage in data processing production for opinion and market research and statistical research data processing. Management of the business including: Hiring, training and managing 2 full time technical staff and contracted employees. Marketing and customer relations' management and statistical programming. Project management including estimates, budgeting, hands on production and process review. Start up yard care and home maintenance business employing up to 9 seasonal employees. Remodeling bathrooms, kitchens, interior and exterior painting, light construction, landscaping, sprinkler systems, property management.
Reason for Leaving: Need for predictable income, health insurance and retirement considerations.

- **MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, 1227 11th Ave, Helena, MT 59620**
05/97 to 05/01
Information Systems Specialist III
Design, development and maintenance of database applications using MS Access, Visual Basic, and VBA Maintenance of legacy database applications. Comprehensive systems analysis, design, prototyping, and implementation of custom software applications. Installation, maintenance and management of software on Novell Netware and Microsoft LAN's, Internet connectivity and workstation/laptop/desktop computer management. Working full time, coordinating consulting services to database clients and completing a Bachelor of the Arts Degree at Carroll College.
Reason for leaving: Moving into a private sector business with the promise of a significant pay increase, attempting career advancement.

- **COMPUTERLAND® OF HELENA, 830 Front ST, Helena, MT 59601**
06/95 to 05/97
Advanced Systems Specialist
Outbound hardware, software and LAN equipment for total business solution sales, CRM (customer relationship management); creating repeat business by developing client confidence in products and services provided, particularly in LAN (local area network) environments. PC hardware diagnostics, repairs, and local and wide area network technical consulting services.
Reason for leaving: Too much time spent on work, no time or financial consideration made by the company to help with my education efforts.

- **THE MONTANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 303 North Ewing, Helena, MT 59601**
04/92 to 05/95
Information Systems Manager/Programmer/Analyst
Designed, developed and maintained applications for membership and voter file information systems. Hardware, software and LAN manager for Novell 3.12, 4.12 and Microsoft LAN; ongoing tech support for statewide data communications; phone banks; data preparation for mass mailing, mailing cost analysis and statistical reporting; supervision of data entry staff. Working full time and scheduling time to work toward a Bachelor of the Arts Degree at Carroll College.
Reason for leaving: Opportunity to increase income through commissioned sales, attempting to advance my career in sales.

WORK EXPERIENCE: (continued from page 1)

- **BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF MONTANA**, 400 Fuller Ave, Helena, MT 59601
07/90 to 03/92
Claims Implementation Trainer
Creating and delivering conventional and computer based training courses for HICFA and ICD-9 claims processing software operating on an IBM System 3090. Documenting JCL routines for IBM CICS system software. Working full time and scheduling time to work toward Bachelor of the Arts Degree at Carroll College.
Reason for Leaving: Significant pay increase, opportunity to be involved in database application development, moving into a career more consistent with my education.
- **THE MADISON COMPANY**, 24 West Sixth, Helena, MT 59624
01/89 to 07/90
System Support Specialist
Installing, training, and tech support for medical and legal office hardware and software systems in IBM AS/400, System/36, and XT, AT and PS/2 PC environments. Direct technical support for installed offices. Training office personnel to use billing software, accounting software, spreadsheets, database office productivity software.
Reason for Leaving: The Company went out of business.
- **NORWEST BANK HELENA/NA**, 350 North Last Chance, Helena, MT 59601
09/88 to 05/89
Universal Proof Operator
Proof Operator using IBM and NCR equipment check transaction processing. Preparing Federal Reserve Bank Cash Letters. Reporting to the Minneapolis Data Control Center, splitting and distribution of daily reports.
Reason for Leaving: The bank moved the check processing center to Billings.
- **NICKOL AG, INC.**, Box 87 Star Route, Ledger, MT 59456
06/79 to 01/89
Farm/Ranch Laborer, Truck Tractor Driver
Dry-land/irrigated farming and ranching; construction carpenter and laborer; heavy and farm equipment operator; OTR truck-tractor operator, diesel mechanic, and welder.
Reason for leaving: No financial opportunity, minimal work and to return to school.

EDUCATION:

- Carroll College, 340 North Benton Avenue, Helena, MT 59623
Business Administration/Finance – 05/2001
- College of Technology/UM, 1150 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601
Business/Data Processing/AA in Applied Computer Science – 06/1899
- Shelby High School, 1001 Valley Street, Shelby, MT, 59474
General Education – 05/1979

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) Base 14.1/Tables 12.1
- SPSS Market Research Tools
- Macromedia Dreamweaver® Web production software
- Microsoft SQL Server Implementation and Support
- Systemation® Project Management and Universal Approach to Analysis and Design
- Microsoft Access 2007
- Microsoft Visual InterDev

